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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/940,195	08/27/2001	Rodney L. Miller	83262/N-R	4905

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EXAMINER

DUDDING, ALFRED E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2853

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/940,195

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Alfred E. Dudding

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 and 38-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 41-43, 45 and 46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5-36, 38-40 and 44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 16 November 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6, 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2, 5, 6, 8 - 14, 16, 19, 23, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, 39, and 44 recite the limitation "**reference raster**" in:

claim 2, lines 4 and 6,

claim 5, line 4,

claim 6, line 13,

claim 8, lines 2, 7, and 9.

claim 9, line 2,

claim 10, lines 18, 23, and 26,

claim 11, line 1,

claim 12, line 1,

claim 13, lines 1, 5, 6, and 8,

claim 14, lines 18, 22, 24, and 27,

claim 16, line 3,

claim 19, line 3,

claim 23, lines 5 and 8,\

claim 27, lines 15, 22, and 24,

claim 28, line 2,

claim 30, lines 15, 17, 18, and 20,

claim 32, line 2,

claim 34, lines 2, 7, and 8.

Claim 35, line 2,

Claim 36, lines 11, 13, 17, 18, and 18,

Claim 39, line 3,

Claim 44, line 5.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

The claims will be examined in view that “reference raster” means a raster that is being printed or will be printed.

3. Claim 15 recites the limitation "table values" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1, 2, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (EP 0 916 494 A2).

Yamada et al. discloses an ink jet printer apparatus, Figure 4, element 30 (clearly seen), and a method for printing an image on a receiver medium, Figure 13, elements S1400 – S1411, comprising: at least one nozzle connected to a supply of ink, Figure 8, element 93 (128 nozzles),

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Figure 4, elements 300a-b (printhead cartridges with ink supply), a controller, responsive to image data representing the image, Figure 10, upper right function block “CONTROLLER”, and to a first signal related to receiver media type, Figure 15, element S1577, and to a second signal related to ink type, Figure 17, elements S1706 – S1709, and to a third signal related to printing resolution, Figure 15, element S1517, for generating a fourth signal for determining for said nozzle an ink drop volume to be deposited at each of plural pixel locations on the receiver medium by that nozzle, at least some of the fourth signals determining at least three different drop volumes, Figure 43A, element SA43311 (Pulse Width Modulation) and Figure 46B, elements S4622, S4612,, including a no drop decision, Figure 9, “LEVEL 0”, the controller generating a table of drop volume related values for printing the image data in response to the first signal, the second signal and the third signal, with different table values being provided for different combinations of receiver media types, ink types and printer resolutions; an actuator associated with said nozzle and responsive to said fourth signal for controlling said nozzle to deposit at a respective pixel location a respective drop volume to be deposited in accordance with said fourth signal so that the printer prints at least three different drop volumes including no drops at different pixel locations on the receiver medium to print the image on the receiver medium.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 10, 27, 30, and 36 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

7. Claims **5 – 9, 11 – 14, 16 – 26, 28 - 34, and 38 - 40** would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims **3 and 4** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

a. A search of prior art did not cite an inkjet printer apparatus wherein the controller includes a pass table that stores drop volume related values, and in response to image data in the form of a multitone pixel value signal the controller generates a fifth signal related to the drop volume related value as claimed in the limitations of claims **3 and 4**.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter::

a. The primary reason for the allowance of claims **41 and 42** is the inclusion of the method step of processing image data for a print job to be printed by an inkjet print head, the method of generating a code value from a table of a plural number of selectable code values, the number of selectable code values being substantially less than the number of combinations of plural recording resolutions, plural receiver media types and optionally plural inks possible for selection for the job. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

b. The primary reason for the allowance of claim **43** is the inclusion of the combination of the limitation of a n ink jet printer apparatus for printing an image on a receiver medium having a communication channel for receiving inputs for a job of a selected one of plural

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recording resolutions, a selected one of plural receiver media types and optionally a selected one of plural inks for processing the job and the controller, in response to such job inputs, is adapted to generate a third signal representing a first code value from a table of plural number of selectable code values, the number of selectable code values being substantially less than the number of combinations of plural recording resolutions, plural receiver media types and optionally plural inks possible for selection for the job. It is this limitation found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

c. The primary reason for the allowance of claim **45** is the inclusion of the method step of processing image data for a print job to be printed by an inkjet print head, in response to the inputs generating a code value from a table of a plural number of selectable code values, the number of selectable code values being substantially less than the number of combinations of plural recording resolutions, plural receiver media types and plural inks possible for selection for the job. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

d. The primary reason for the allowance of claim **46** is the inclusion of the method step of operating an ink jet printer apparatus for printing an image on a receiver medium, wherein in response to the job inputs a code value is generated from a plurality of selectable code values, the number of selectable code values being substantially less than the number of combinations of plural recording resolutions, plural receiver media types and plural inks possible for selection for the job, the code value being used to a table of values associated with drop volumes used for

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printing. It is this step found in each of the claims, as it is claimed in the combination, that has not been found, taught, or suggested by the prior art of record which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Conclusion


10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alfred Dudding whose telephone number is (703) 308-6082. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow Jr., AU 2853, can be reached at (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for this Group are (703) 305-3432, (703) 305-3431, (703) 308-7382, (703) 308-7724, and (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Alfred Dudding

QV

02-04-13


ANH T.N. VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
02/05/03